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CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE

160 Fifth Avenue, New York City

Telephone CHelsea 2-8735

HELP FREE KELLY POSTAL!

Dear Sirs & Brothers:

We need your help in smashing the most vicious frame-up in years against a trade union leader and CIO brother. The victim of this frame-up is Kelly Postal, Secretary-Treasurer of Minneapolis Motor Transport & Industrial Workers Union, Local 544-CIO. He is today serving a five year sentence in the State Penitentiary at Stillwater, Minnesota. Here are the facts in his case.

First, Postal was convicted on a charge of alleged "embezzlement" of his own union funds, although he simply transferred those funds in obedience to the almost unanimous vote of the membership at a regular meeting when the overwhelming majority voted to disaffiliate from the AFL and join the CIO. Postal was never accused of misusing these funds personally but, like any loyal union official, complied with the decision of his membership. He is no more guilty of "embezzlement" than any other CIO officials who took their union funds when they left the AFL.

Second, Postal was cleared at a previous trial on the same charges. The presiding Judge Hall directed the jury to discharge the case, declaring, after presentation of the testimony, that Postal was obviously innocent of any criminal intent.

Third, Postal's conviction sets a dangerous precedent which can be used against the democratic rights of other unions and against other officials loyal to trade union democracy. Postal's persecution and imprisonment is an integral part of the current drive to stifle democracy in the unions conducted by reactionary anti-labor forces and their agents. For this reason scores of unions of auto, steel and other workers have already aided Postal's defense.

As the authorized representative of Postal's case, we have launched a national campaign to secure his immediate and unconditional pardon. We urgently need funds to finance this campaign and to provide aid for Postal and his family while he is in prison.

Please contribute NOW to this Postal Pardon Fund. Help free Kelly Postal. Strike a blow for labor's rights and civil liberties!

Fraternally yours,

James T. Farrell

Chairman

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To Individuals

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EMERGENCY APPEAL
on
KELLY POSTAL CASE

Dear Friends:

Do the members of a trade union have the democratic right to decide for themselves the disposition of their union funds? This is the issue at stake in the Kelly-Postal case, now being appealed to the Minnesota Supreme Court.

Kelly Postal, Secretary-Treasurer of Minneapolis Local 544 Teamsters Union for many years, has a long and honorable record in the labor movement. The embezzlement charges against him followed the decision of the members of Local 544 to leave the AFL and join the CIO. The union voted, as was their right, to take their treasury funds with them into the CIO.

Daniel J. Tobin, President AFL Teamsters International, in collaboration with anti-labor state officials in Minnesota, succeeded in obtaining a conviction against Postal on the trumped-up charge of embezzlement. This was a continuation of his efforts to prevent the Minneapolis teamsters from disaffiliating from the AFL.

This conviction came after Postal had been completely exonerated of almost identical charges in a previous trial! The second trial differed from the first only in the amount of money he was supposed to have "embezzled". The evidence in the second trial was no different than in the first, but the judge practically directed the jury to bring in a verdict of guilty. Postal was not accused of misusing the union funds personally - his "guilt" was in obeying the unanimous vote of the union at a regular membership meeting.

This is one of the greatest frameups in the history of labor. By this procedure, the officers of the CIO could have been convicted of embezzlement when they left the AFL and took their funds with them.

Defense attorneys filed briefs on the appeal February 15th. Argument before the Minnesota State Supreme Court will be heard in late May or June. Legal costs in this appeal will amount to about $1,000. This honorable and militant trade-unionist will go to prison for a long term unless we act quickly and vigorously in his behalf. We call upon you to help us fight against this dangerous precedent against labor's democratic rights and to prevent this grave injustice.

Please send contributions to the authorized representative of case, the Civil Rights Defense Committee, 160 Fifth Ave., N.Y.

Fraternally yours,

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Chairman.

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